Amendments to the Claims:

1-29. (Canceled)

30. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a molecule which comprises a region specifically interacting with protein LEDGF/P75 or a fragment thereof or a nucleic acid encoding said protein or fragment, for the treatment or prevention of viral infections in a mammal.

31. (Withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition as in claim 30, wherein said viral infection is an infection with HIV.

32. (Withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition as in claim 30, further comprising one or more compounds effective in the treatment or prevention of viral infections.

33. (Withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition as in claim 30, wherein said molecule is selected from the group comprising an antibody or any fragment thereof, a peptide, a small molecule, an antisense nucleic acid, an antigene compound, a ribozyme, nucleic acids mediating RNA interference and a variant polypeptide.

34. (Withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition as in claim 30, wherein said molecule is a polynucleotide encoding the LEDGF/P75 protein or an intermediate or a fragment of said protein, an allelic variant, a homologue, a portion or a mutation thereof.

35. (Withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition as in claim 30, wherein said molecule is a nucleic acid mediating RNA interference specific for mRNA of LEDGF/P75.

36. (Withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition as in claim 30, wherein said molecule is a construct mediating gene therapy specific for modifying the expression of LEDGF/P75.

37. (Withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition as in claim 30, wherein said molecule is a homologue, a variant, a mutated form or a fragment of the LEDGF/P75 protein.

38. (Withdrawn) A method of treating or preventing viral infections in a mammal, which method comprises administering to said mammal a molecule which comprises a region specifically interacting with LEDGF/P75 or a fragment thereof or a nucleic acid encoding said LEDGF/P75 or fragment thereof.

39. (Withdrawn) The method as in claim 38, wherein said molecule is selected from the group comprising an antibody or any fragment thereof, a peptide, a small molecule, an antisense nucleic acid, an antigene compound, a ribozyme, nucleic acids mediating RNA interference and a variant polypeptide.

40. (Withdrawn) The method as in claim 38, wherein said molecule is a polynucleotide encoding the LEDGF/P75 protein or an intermediate or a fragment of said protein, an allelic variant, a homologue, a portion or a mutation thereof.

41. (Withdrawn) The method as in claim 38, wherein said molecule is a nucleic acid mediating RNA interference specific for mRNA of LEDGF/P75.

42. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 38, wherein said molecule is a homologue, a variant, a mutated form or a fragment of the LEDGF/P75 protein.

43. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 38, wherein said viral infection is an infection with HIV.

44. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~drug discovery~~screening molecule(s) for their antiviral activity comprising the step of exposing said ~~molecules~~ molecule(s) to the

protein LEDGF/P75 or a fragment thereof, or a nucleic acid encoding said LEDGF/P75 or a fragment thereof and determining the interaction of said molecule(s) with said protein LEDGF/P75 or with said nucleic acid encoding said LEDGF/P75.

45. (Canceled)

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, further comprising the step of determining the binding or hybridisation of said molecule(s) to said protein LEDGF/P75 or said nucleic acid.

47. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 44, further comprising the step of determining the binding of said ~~molecules~~ molecule(s) to binding places of said protein LEDGF/P75 on lentiviral integrase or to the complex of said protein LEDGF/P75 with lentiviral integrase.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44 which comprises the step of monitoring the prevention or suppression of retroviral replication or integration.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, comprising the modulation of the nuclear transport of lentiviral integrase.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, comprising the step of increasing the solubility of the lentiviral integrase and/or the step of crystallisation of the lentiviral integrase.

51. (Withdrawn) A method for modulating the interaction of LEDGF/P75 with lentiviral integrase, which comprises the use of a molecule comprising a region specifically interacting with said protein LEDGF/P75 or nucleic acids encoding said protein or with fragments, allelic variants, a homologue, a portion or mutations of the protein or nucleic acids.

52. (Withdrawn) A polynucleotide comprising a first polynucleotide encoding the LEDGF/P75 protein or an intermediate or a fragment of said protein, a variant, a mutation thereof, further comprising a second polynucleotide which encodes at least a portion of an HIV integrase.

53. (Withdrawn) The polynucleotide of claim 52, wherein said first and said second polynucleotides are arranged in such a way that a fusion protein results after expression.

54. (Withdrawn) An isolated protein complex comprising a retroviral integrase and the LEDGF/P75 protein or a fragment, a variant, or a mutation thereof.

55. (Withdrawn) The isolated protein complex of claim 54 wherein said retroviral integrase is a lentiviral integrase.

56. (Withdrawn) The isolated complex of claim 54, wherein the retroviral integrase is the HIV integrase.

57. (New) The method of claim 44, comprising the step of determining the ability of said molecule(s) to suppress the promoting activity on the strand transfer activity of HIV.

58. (New) The method of claim 44, which comprises introducing said LEDGF/P75 protein into a cell culture, introducing said compound(s) to said cell culture, and determining a change in the integration-interacting protein (INIP) activity of the cell.

59. (New) The method of claim 44, which comprises administering said molecule(s) to a cellular sample comprising said protein LEDGF/P75 and determining its effect on the binding of the protein LEDGF/P75 to integrase.